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IN ADDITION TO being the champion hat-passer and picturesque promoter of bombast, the Mutual Reserve Fund Life of New York occupies a front seat as contester of claims under its alleged policies of insurance. One conspicuous case among several lately is that of refusing to pay \$10,000 under two certificates, issued in Sept., 1885, on the life of the late ex-Governor John B. Page of Vermont, although when proofs of death were received, in due course, the association on April 30, 1886, approved the claim, and later on included it in the deaths assessed for. In the meantime, however, one of the heirs of the deceased attached all the policies, of which there were several. When the attachments were soon after vacated, the executors were notified that the Mutual Reserve had annulled its former action, and now refused to pay the claim. This was assigned to Mr. James H. Stuart of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has sued the association to recover. In defense the absurd claim is set up that the association has no satisfactory knowledge that Governor Page is dead, and that it has discovered at this late day that the insured misrepresented the facts in his application. The association also pleads the statute of limitations. All of which is not surprising, but in keeping with the past record of the champion hat-passer.

THE ANOMALOUS SPECTACLE is presented in New York city of a ruinous competition forcing rates down and commissions up on the one hand, while on the other hand the complaint grows louder from property owners, that there are not enough companies to furnish the insurance required. During 1890 the record shows that nearly 3,000 individuals and firms made affidavit that the regular licensed companies were insufficient to

take their full lines, and sought permission under the law to procure further insurance in unlicensed companies. The number of this class of insurants this year is said to be much larger than in 1890. During the current year sixteen companies, most of them New York companies, have retired, whose aggregate line on a single risk was about \$85,000, and still others are preparing to withdraw. The *Commercial Bulletin* figures out that since 1871, one hundred and one stock companies, all incorporated by the State of New York, have retired, among which are 31 of the 38 organized since the above date. The new local tariff association, so long pending, has at last been formed, and the situation of the companies seems in a fair way to be improved.

THE ENTERPRISING MANAGER of the *Glasgow Herald* has applied a system of protection from fire communicated by contiguous burning buildings worthy of attention. A tower outside the *Herald's* main building, and somewhat higher, holding 3,500 gallons of water, has been erected. In the machine room in the basement is a tank holding 3,000 gallons drawn from the street pipes, and furnished with a Worthington force-pump. In case of impending danger from outside fires, either the water from the tower or from the tank or from both can be used to flood the roof and windows, by means of a series of iron pipes arranged conveniently for the purpose. The arrangement is simple and will no doubt be effectual, always provided that men drilled to work the apparatus are on hand when its service is required. The practical difficulty with all fire extinguishing apparatus provided for buildings, however excellent in itself, has always been the lack of the right men at the right place at the right time.

THE REBATE EVIL, so extensively associated with life assurance on this side of the Atlantic, has apparently gained a pretty firm lodgment on the other side. Some of the agents there have already acquired the astonishing "cheek" to advertise their rebate inducements in the newspapers! At least the *Post Magazine* cites a case, where an agent announced in the *Southern Echo* of Southampton that he represented "one of the foremost offices in the Kingdom," and in order to popu-